MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

21 DECEMBER 1982

Lebanon

Al-Jumayyil-Draper Talks -- President Amin al-Jumayyil met with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Morris Draper, who informed him of the results of U.S. presidential envoy Philip Habib's talks with Israeli leaders, Beirut radio reported. Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, who subsequently met with Al-Jumayyil to evaluate the latest diplomatic developments, said in remarks reported by the radio that the only new factor in Israel's position is its abandonment of the demand that the discussions be held in Jerusalem. While he said the venue for the negotiations has not yet been decided, Al-Wazzan expressed hope that the talks would begin as soon as possible. Official Lebanese sources cited by the clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio affirmed that during the meeting with the U.S. envoy, the Lebanese side informed Draper that Lebanon insists on a total withdrawal of all non-Lebanese forces and does not accept only partial withdrawals.

Sharon on Security Arrangements -- Israeli Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon told the Knesset that Israel's demand for security arrangements to exclude "terrorists" applies to all of Lebanon; the entire country should be liberated of "terrorist presence and their political and military commands," he said. In his remarks, which were broadcast by Jerusalem radio, Sharon also stipulated that the multinational peace-keeping force in Lebanon must consist only of countries that recognize Israel.

Multinational Force -- Britain will send an armored reconnaissance unit of about 80 men to participate in the multinational peace-keeping force, the London Press Association reported.

Ash-Shuf Clashes -- After further attempts by officials and political leaders to halt the violence in the 'Alayh area, the Druze-Christian clashes stopped during the afternoon, according to Beirut radio reports. Heavy weapons were used in the fighting, which extended to areas both south and east of 'Alayh, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported. The Voice of Arab Lebanon claimed that 13 Christian militiamen were killed in an abortive attack on Druze positions.

Iran-Iraq War

A 19 December surface-to-surface Iraqi missile attack on the city of Dezful killed 62 people and injured 287, Tehran radio reported. According to a military communique broadcast by Baghdad radio, Dezful was shelled in retaliation for Iranian shelling of Iraqi cities and for the recent bombing of the INA building in Baghdad.

Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani denied that Iran has shelled Iraqi cities, even though "seven or eight large Iraqi towns" are within Iranian firing range, Tehran radio reported. The speaker declared in remarks cited by another Tehran report that "crimes" such as the attack on Dezful motivate Iranians and have always culminated "in adverse results for the Iraqis. This latest incident is no exception." The superpowers are lying when they claim to be trying to establish peace, because it would be impossible for Iraq to use sophisticated weapons without permission from the weapons supplier, Hashemi-Rafsanjani added. Dezful's Majlis deputy declared that the Foreign Ministry should summon the Soviet ambassador and take him to see the destruction in Dezful, IRNA reported.

Iran

The supervisor of the Interior Ministry's election headquarters announced that 13 people received an absolute majority of the votes in Tehran Province and have been elected to represent Tehran on the Council of Experts; a second round of voting will

be held to elect the final representative, Tehran radio reported. President 'Ali Khamene'i, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Prosecutor General 'Abdolkarim Musavi-Ardabili received the most votes, the radio added.

PLO

Relations With Syria — PDRY leader 'Ali Nasir Muhammad's recent visit to Syria was aimed at mediating between Syria and the PLO, Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah announced in a Damascus press conference reported by Radio Monte Carlo. He said a high-level PLO delegation led by Palestine National Council (PNC) Speaker Khalid al-Fahum will shortly begin an "open and frank" dialogue with the Syrian leadership. In a statement at the end of his visit to Syria, 'Ali Nasir Muhammad expressed satisfaction with the results of his talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and stressed the importance of bolstering the forces of Arab steadfastness, "foremost among which are Syria and the Palestinian Revolution," Damascus television reported. However, although a Doha paper cited by QNA said Syria is insisting that the PLO leadership declare that the forthcoming PNC session will be held in Damascus, PNC Speaker al-Fahum meanwhile announced that the PNC will convene in Algiers in February 1983, according to Radio Monte Carlo.

In related developments, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command and the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front both issued statements over Damascus radio condemning recent PLO contacts with Egypt through PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's personal envoy 'Atallah Muhammad 'Atallah.

PLO Operation in West Bank — A PLO unit ambushed and overturned an Israeli personnel carrier on the Ramallah-Bi'r Sayt road on 18 December, killing or wounding a number of Israelis, a PLO military spokesman claimed in a statement broadcast by Baghdad Voice of PLO radio.

Egypt

PRC State Council Premier Zhao Ziyang was greeted by President Husni Mubarak and senior Egyptian officials on arrival in Cairo on 20 December, Cairo radio reported. Zhao Ziyang, who stated in remarks cited by MENA that he is in Egypt to promote friendship and cooperation, is accompanied by Councillor of the State Council Gu Mu and Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian, according to XINHUA. The Egyptian President and PRC premier later held private talks at Al-Qubbah Presidential Palace, MENA reported. XINHUA described the talks as "warm and friendly."

OPEC Conference

A press statement issued by OPECNA at the end of the 19-20 December OPEC meeting in Vienna stated that the member countries agreed to establish an 18.5 million barrel per day production quota for 1983 but were unable to agree on distribution of national quotas within this ceiling. The conference decided to keep its deliberations "open" in order to hold further consultations on the quota issue. Meanwhile, each member country should make every effort to preserve the price structure and to stabilize market conditions, the statement added. The next ordinary OPEC meeting is scheduled to be held on 18 July, OPECNA noted.

Conference President Yahaya Dikko stated that although price differentials were not discussed, the oil ministers agreed to maintain the $34 per barrel benchmark price and to not discount, another OPECNA report pointed out. Dikko opined that the benchmark price would be maintained throughout 1983.

Afghanistan

President Babrak Karmal left for Moscow where he told a press conference that the Soviet Union has never raised the question of annexation of Afghanistan, according to AFP reports. TASS said Karmal described reports of Soviet intentions to annex Afghanistan as "the ravings of a lunatic."

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USSR-AFGHAN FORCES CONDUCTING 'CLEANUP' OPERATIONS

BK210205 Hong Kong AFP in English 1658 GMT 20 Dec 82

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 20 (AFP) -- Soviet-Afghan forces have been carrying out "clean-up" operations for the past two weeks against rebels holed up in villages at the foot of mountains north of Kabul, Afghan rebel sources said here today.

Soviet and Afghan troops were trying to surround guerrillas who have come down from the mountains due to the harsh climate to prepare raids on Kabul on the third anniversary of the entry of Soviet troops into Afghanistan on December 27, 1979, the sources said.

Rebel leaders in Peshawar said recently that they were preparing spectacular operations for this date.

The Islamic press agency, which is favorable to the rebels, said that on December 6 almost 1,000 Soviet and Afghan soldiers, accompanied by armed government loyalists, launched a ground attack, supported by about 15 MiG fighter bombers and helicopters, against rebels from the Haraqat-e-Inqilabi party in a village near Deh-Sabz, about 30 kms (19 miles) northeast of Kabul.

These guerrillas, aided by diversionary action from Hezbi Islami and Jamiat Islamic fighters who hold neighboring villages, managed to break out from the attack. In eight days of fighting the rebels lost about a dozen men while about 30 government troops were killed, the agency said.

The rebels are blocked from fleeing north as Soviet-Afghan troops approach since the mountains and passes are snowbound. Western military experts said the bombing of villages which generally follows the ground attacks is particularly effective in these conditions, causing many casualties.

Rebel sources said that on December 16, several armored columns and troop transports left Kabul to surround Charikar, Estalef, Kheyr Khaneh and Bagram northwest of the capital. Soldiers took position at the foot of mountains to block escape routes for the mujahedeen.

Last winter similar operations were carried out before December 27 but this year Soviet-Afghan forces seem to be superior.

An Afghan traveler from Jazar-e-Sharif in northern Afghanistan said several days ago in Peshawar that the road from Kabul to the Soviet border has for two weeks been open to civilian traffic only two hours a day and that Soviet military convoys have been bringing in a large number of heavy field guns.

'COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES' CRUSHED IN 2 PROVINCES

Balkh Province

LD201644 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 20 Dec 82

[Text] Officers and soldiers of the 18th Balkh Division and the border division have crushed several groups of counterrevolutionary elements in Chemtal district, Balkh Province. They also captured a number of these criminals including their ringleaders, Shawali and Gulwali, who are inhabitants of that district.

An 18th Balkh Division command source told a BAKHTAR correspondent that as a result of a heroic struggle by the officers and men, several hideouts of the enemies of the people, homeland and revolution, including several food stores and ammunition depots, have been destroyed. He also said 2,200 pieces of various types of ammunition, 70 assorted weapons, 28 antitank and antipersonnel mines, 6 medium-range mortar shells, 2 rocket launchers and 15 vehicles were captured from the saboteurs.

Nangarhar Province

LD201840 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 20 Dec 82

[Text] The security force of the Nader Shah Kowt subdistrict, (Shinwar) major district, Nangarhar Province crushed a number of counterrevolutionary elements and captured three of them in (Gola'i) village of that subdistrict the day before yesterday. According to the report of the Nader Shah Kowt security force, 22 assorted weapons, 3 heavy and light rocket launchers and a (?quantity of) ammunition were captured from these murderers.

According to another report, the security force of (Sra Rud) district, Nangarhar Province has crushed another group of saboteurs bands in (Sabzabad), Sorkh Ab and [word indistinct] villages and also in (Moy-e Mubarak).

100 DEAD REPORTEDLY FOUND IN MASS GRAVE IN HERAT

BK160903 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 16 Dec 82

[Text] A mass grave reportedly has been discovered in Herat Province of Afghanistan, in which more than 100 men, women and children were buried. According to the Afghan press, the victims were gagged, had their hands tied behind their backs and had their necks broken.

DEFECTORS CLAIM KHAD AGENTS IN PAKISTAN, IRAN CAMPS

LD201556 Riyadh SPA in English 1344 GMT 20 Dec 82

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 20 (SPA) -- Nearly 20,000 Afghan secret service (KHAD) agents have been sent into Pakistan and Iran over the last two years to foment trouble in Afghan refugee camps, it was reported here today.

The Peshawar-based Afghan Information and Documentation Centre said in a report KHAD agents trained by the Soviet KGB were actively working in the ranks of Afghan refugees and freedom fighters.

The centre based its report on interviews with two high-ranking Afghan secret police officials who defected to Pakistan recently and confessed having secret sympathies with the Afghan mujahidin.

BRIEFS

AGREEMENT WITH USSR -- Kabul, Dec 16, BAKHTAR -- An agreement was concluded between the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reforms and the councellor's office for economic affairs of the Soviet Union in Kabul here today. Under this agreement, the Vestogintorg Firm of the Soviet Union will deliver to the Afghan side 5000 improved wheat seeds, 1000 tons of cotton seeds worth about 1.5 million rubles of gratis aid until the end of the next month. [Text] [Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0419 GMT 17 Dec 82 LD]

TU OFFICIAL TO USSR -- Kabul, Dec 15, BAKHTAR -- Sattar Purdeli, president of the Central Council of Trade Unions of the DRA left Kabul for USSR today. He will be participating in the celebrations of 60th anniversary of the establishment of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics at the invitation of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions of the USSR. [Text] [Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 16 Dec 82 LD]

PLAN TO ATTACK PAKISTAN NUCLEAR FACILITY DENIED

BK201658 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Dec 82

[Text] An official spokesman in New Delhi has described as totally false and unfounded a WASHINGTON POST report suggesting that there were plans for a preemptive attack by India on Pakistan's nuclear reprocessing facilities. The report quoted U.S. intelligence sources to say that the such a plan had been suggested by Indian military officers to the prime minister.

The spokesman characterized it as a figment of someone's imagination and absolute rubbish. On the contrary, India and Pakistan are engaged in a very serious exercise for bringing about a rapprochement between them, he said. Pakistan's foreign Secretary Niaz Naik is visiting New Delhi on Wednesday, [22 December] for finalizing the modalities of functioning of the Indo-Pak joint commission which has already been set up in principle. We expect that an agreement on the joint commission will be initialed during the forthcoming talks, he said. The talks to be held on Thursday and Friday will also cover Pakistan's proposal for a nonaggression pact and India's proposal for a treaty of peace, friendship and cooperation.

70 SAID INJURED IN PAKISTAN-KASHMIR CLASH

BK210327 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 20 Dec 82

[Text] According to delayed reports, more than 70 people were injured when police lathi [cane] charged student demonstrators in Mirpur and Rawalkot in the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir on Friday last [17 December]. The students were protesting against the nationalist [as heard] rule and army repression in the region. Over 1,500 people, including political leaders, have been reportedly arrested in the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir since the agitation was launched about a month ago by the united front of four major opposition parties.

MAURITIUS LEADER SEEKS SUPPORT ON DIEGO GARCIA

BK210337 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Dec 82

[Text] Prime Minister of Mauritius Aneerood Jugnauth has urged the Nonaligned Movement to come out in full support of his country's demand for the early return of Diego Garcia. Addressing a news conference in New Delhi this evening, he appreciated India's firm support for the demand. However, as the host to the nonaligned summit, India should pursuade other nations of the movement to give a call for the restoration of his country's island.

Jugnauth is in New Delhi on a private visit in connection with his daughter's wedding. He is leaving for Moscow tomorrow. The Mauritius prime minister said his government wants to follow an independent foreign policy as India is doing under Mrs Gandhi. He noted that there is enormous potential for economic cooperation between the two countries. He would do everything to strengthen it. In the long run, Mauritius would like to break away completely from South Africa but cannot do so at present because of deep commercial ties.

India had been offering generous economic assistance to Mauritius, but in the past it was not full used. He would like to take full advantage of the offer. Mauritius is setting up a state trading corporation and has asked for the assistance of the Indian experts in this regard.

States Basis for Claim

BK210216 Hong Kong AFP in English 1713 GMT 20 Dec 82

[Text] New Delhi, Dec. 20 (AFP) -- Mauritius Prime Minister Aneerood Jugnauth said here today his country would continue to relentlessly fight for regaining the possession of Chagos Islands, including Diego Garcia [at] all world forums.

He said Mauritius refused to accept the British argument that it had leased out Diego Garcia to the U.S. in order to preserve peace in the region.

The new Mauritius prime minister, who is now here on a private visit, wanted the nonaligned summit meeting here in March next to issue a declaration for restoring Diego Garcia to Mauritius.

He told reporters his country's case was based on two grounds -- the sovereignty over the islands vested in Mauritius and the need for maintaining peace in the Indian Ocean.

He recalled that Britain had now settled the question of compensation to those who had been displaced from Diego Garcia before it was leased out to the U.S. for building the present military base.

Mr Jugnauth further stated that Mauritius intended to gradually end its dependence on South Africa for supply of essential goods and would turn to India for as much assistance as possible.

NEW ASPECTS OF TRADE WITH USSR DISCUSSED

BK171347 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 17 Dec 82

[Text] The Soviet Union has shown keen interest in a certain Indian proposal for giving a new direction to trade and commercial exchanges between the two nations. At the official level talks in New Delhi, Commerce Secretary Abid Hussain gave a suggestion for identifying certain labor-intensive industries in which production could be made in India for the consumption of the Soviets.

SOVIET ECONOMIC DELEGATION ARRIVES 18 DEC

BK181618 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Dec 82

[Text] A Soviet economic delegation led by Deputy Chairman of the USSR State Committee for Economic Relations With Foreign Countries V.I. Litvinenko arrived in New Delhi today. Litvinenko said the purpose of his visit is to follow up the implementation of agreements reached during Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi's visit to Moscow and to carry out the decision of the intergovernment commission held last September.

USSR TO COLLABORATE IN NAVAL SHIP MANUFACTURE

BK210343 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Dec 82

[Text] India and the Soviet Union have decided to step up collaboration in the field of design and manufacture of naval ships and patrol boats. This follows detailed discussions of Soviet Minister for Shipbuilding M.V. Yegorov with Deputy Defense Minister K.P. Singhdeo in New Delhi today. Chief of Naval Staff Admiral O.S. Dawson and senior officials of the Defense Ministry also participated in the discussions.

Yegorov, who was in India at the invitation of Defense Minister Venkataraman, earlier visited various naval establishments in the country.

PRESIDENT ZAIL SINGH GREETS USSR ANNIVERSARY

BK201439 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 20 Dec 82

[Text] President Zail Singh has expressed confidence that the friendship between India and the Soviet Union will be further strengthened to the mutual benefit and in the interest of international peace and cooperation. In a message of felicitations to the first vice chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the formation of the USSR, Giani Zail Singh mentioned that he has profound satisfaction at the steady growth of relations between the two countries. He also commended the tremendous achievement attained by the Soviet Union in all fields since its formation.

OFFICIALS COMMENT TO PRESS ON BARODA SITUATION

BK210329 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Dec 82

[Text] It has been decided to reactivize the peace committee of Baroda city by enlarging it. This was announced at a joint news conference this evening addressed by Union Home Minister P.C. Sethi and Defense Minister R. Venkataraman. This has been done to restore peace in Baroda city at the earliest.

It was stated that a coordinating committee, including army representatives, was also being set up to keep a watch over day-to-day developments in the city. Sethi said that a cell has already been set up at the center in the Home Ministry to go into causes of communal riots, particularly in the places where this occurs frequently. Sethi said that during the course of the day they had heard more than 25 delegations and individuals and taken note of their suggestions to restore peace in the city.

Gujarat Chief Minister Madhav Singh Solanki announced in the press conference that the government has decided to increase the amount of ex gratia payment to the families of those who have died in the recent disturbances. He said that assistance to those whose shops were looted and those who have suffered economic loss will also be further liberalized. Besides the union home minister and defense minister, Khurshid Alam Khan, union minister of state for tourism; state Chief Minister Solanki, state Home Minister Prabod Rawal and union Home Secretary T.N. Chaturvedi were also present at the conference.

At the end of their busy schedule in Baroda, Sethi and Venkataraman left for Delhi. All India radio correspondents who accompanied the central ministers report that they earlier visited the (Sarajirao) hospital where some of the riot victims are under treatment. Fifteen of them, including two women, are still in hospital.

POLICE, DEMONSTRATORS INJURED IN TRICHUR

BK201702 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Dec 82

[Text] In Kerala, CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] Volunteers led by the Democratic Youth Federation of India were removed by the police for gheraoing [blockading] the state secretariat and the collectorate today. They were agitating for unemployment allowance for all the unemployed people without any conditions. The demonstrators turned violent in Trichur and Kottayam. In Trichur, police fired in the air to disperse the unruly mob after lathi [cane] charge and tear gas proved ineffective. A number of people have been injured. Several policemen were also injured in the incident.

SRI LANKA

OPPOSITION CONDEMNS STATE OF EMERGENCY EXTENSION

BK210730 Hong Kong AFP in English 0704 GMT 21 Dec 82

[By Meville da Silva]

[Text] Colombo, Dec 21 (AFP) -- With a crucial national referendum just a day away, opposition parties have strongly condemned the government's unexpected decision late yesterday to extend the emergency by another month.

"We unequivocally condemn the government's decision to go back on its official assurance that the state of emergency would not be extended after December 19 and instead renewing it for the third month," nine opposition parties said in a statement.

The further extension of this state of emergency meant tomorrow's referendum will be held with "a large number of organisers of opposition parties detained without any charge, with opposition newspapers and printing presses sealed and in an atmosphere of intimidation and terrorism," the statement said.

Tomorrow's referendum seeks national approval for another six year lease of life for the current parliament. The ruling United National Party (UNP) decided on this move after last October's presidential election returned President Junius Jayewardene for another six-year term with almost 53 percent of the vote.

If the vote is yes it will mean general elections scheduled for mid-1983 will not be held and the current parliament will continue until 1989.

In early November parliament, where the UNP holds 143 of the 168 seats, overwhelmingly voted in favour of extending its term by another six years. But despite parliament's decision, the constitution calls for ratification at a national referendum.

Earlier the government had indicated that it will allow the two-month-long emergency to lapse at midnight on December 19. The emergency was introduced immediately after the presidential poll on October 20. The reason given was to prevent the escalation of violence between rival political groups. No official reason has been publicly announced up to now for the extension of the emergency.

However THE SUN newspaper today quoted high-ranking government sources as saying that "incidents of unrest" necessitated the extension, although the alleged incidents have not been specified.

One reason reportedly cited by the source was continuing investigation into an alleged plot by sections of the opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) to unleash violence at the October presidential elections.

Among opposition politicians held in detention under emergency its Vijaha Kumaranatunge, assistant secretary of the SLFP and son-in-law of Sirimavo Bandaranaike, former prime minister and SLFP leader.

The government has claimed that some of those detained had plotted to kill President Junius Jayewardene and key ministers and take over power violently after the presidential poll. But the opposition claims that their continued detention is aimed at disrupting the referendum campaign, and intimidate others into submission.

"The whole world can now see that this government, while talking about democracy, has been in fact conducting the referendum in a way that makes a mockery of the law and of democratic norms," the opposition statement charged.

TEHRAN PROVINCE COUNCIL OF EXPERTS ELECTION RESULTS

LD201802 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Dec 82

[Text] The supervisor of the elections headquarters of the Interior Ministry has announced the final results of the counting of votes for election to the Council of Experts in Tehran Province. They are as follows:

In His exalted name. Out of a total number of 3,189,530 votes counted in Tehran Province constitutency for the Council of Experts, 13 persons received an absolute majority of votes. They are as follows:

Their Great Eminences the ayatollahs and hojaj-e eslam:

1. Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i
2. 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani
3. Mir-Karim Musavi-Ardabili
4. 'Ali Akbar Meshkini
5. Mohammad Emami-Kashani
6. Mohammad Mohammadi-Gilani
7. Yusof Sane'i
8. Mohammad Baqer Baqeri-Kani
9. Mohammad Baqer Asadi-Khunsari
10. Bholam Reza Rezvani
11. Ahmad Azari-Qomi
12. Seyyed Hadi Khosrushahi
13. Hoseyn Rasti

Elections for the 14th member the Council of Experts in Tehran Province constitutency will be held in a second round of voting.

The number of votes cast in the elections to the Council of Experts throughout the Islamic Republic of Iran totalled 17,682,912.

JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUES DETAIL LATEST BATTLES

Communique No 1,155

LD171748 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Dec 82

[Communique No 1,155 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The result of operations by the strong combatants of Islam in the battle between truth and falsehood and the situation on the fronts of the imposed war are brought to the attention of the beloved compatriots.

On the Marivan front, as a result of heavy fire by the forces of Islam on the Saddamists' positions on the other side of the border, numerous losses and casualties were inflicted upon the mercenary Iraqi Ba'thist forces. On the other western fronts, exchanges of artillery and other heavy weapons fire were going on sporadically and the strong combatants of Islam, silencing the enemy's fire, were defending their positions.

No major operations or considerable engagements took place on the country's southern fronts yesterday. On some fronts sporadic exchanges of heavy and light weapons fire continued and the combatants of Islam were busy consolidating and guarding their defense positions.

On the Abadan and Khorramshahr fronts exchanges of fire continued; they were more intense in the (Pol-e Now) area. The heroes of the navy, the gendarmerie, and the other combative forces based in the area bravely preserved their superiority over the aggressive Saddamist forces and inflicted losses and casualties on the enemy.

Yesterday, the criminal, Saddamist mercenaries continued to pour heavy weapons fire on the residential areas of Abadan, destroying four houses and part of a mosque and wounding two of our beloved compatriots.

In the past 24 hours the air defence units of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran foiled air attacks by the Saddamist mercenaries against the western and southern border areas of the country.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Communique No 1,156

LD181728 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Dec 82

[Communique No 1,156 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The public is hereby informed of activities and operations carried out during the past 24 hours at various battlefronts by the Armed Forces of the of the Islamic Republic of Iran:

In the Moharram operational zone and the country's southern fronts yesterday constant exchanges of artillery and mortar fire took place between our forces and those of the enemy. These exchanges were more fierce in the (Pol-e-Now) and (Zubaydat) region, and our forces' return fire halted the enemy's heavy weapons fire. The Islamic combatants' fire on enemy positions across the Arvand Rud halted Iraqi forces' movements on the Al-Faw-Basra axis, destroyed one enemy ammunition dump, one mortar and three Iraqi personnel bunkers and killed five of the Saddamists. Several places in Abadan were hit once again yesterday by the Saddam army's heavy weapons fire, resulting in some damage.

In the Muslim Ibn 'Aqil and the country's other western fronts yesterday, clashes continued in the form of sporadic exchanges of fire with our forces gaining the upper hand. Our combatant forces opened fire on the enemy tank, mortar and personnel positions, inflicting losses and damage on the Iraqi forces.

Limited violation of our country's airspace by Iraqi aircraft yesterday was repulsed by the air defense units fire.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Communique No 1,157

LD191720 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Dec 82

[Communique No 1,157 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The results of round-the-clock efforts by the selfless personnel of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the fronts of the imposed war are hereby brought to the attention of the dear compatriots..

Yesterday, on most of the western fronts of the country the battle continued with exchanges of artillery and heavy weapons fire. On one of the country's western fronts, one enemy truck and several entrenchments together with their crews were destroyed. On the Marivan front, the heavy artillery fire of the ground forces aimed at Qazanfar and Sulayman garrisons inside Iraq inflicted considerable damage to both garrisons, demolishing parts of installations and buildings in both garrisons and killing a number of enemy personnel.

Fighting between the combatants of Islam and the infidel Saddamists continued on the southern fronts with sporadic exchanges of fire as on previous days. In exchanges of fire on the Abadan and Khorramshahr fronts, the heroes of the navy and the warriors of the gendarmerie checked the movements of Saddamist forces stationed on the other side of the Arband Rud and destroyed more than five mortar and machinegun emplacements, several foxholes and three observation posts belonging to the Iraqi forces, and killed or wounded a number of their personnel. Yesterday, Saddamist mercenaries opened artillery and long-range weapons fire on residential areas of Abadan, wounding 20 of our compatriots and damaging houses.

During the past 24 hours, all violations of Iran's airspace by the mercenary forces of the Zionist regime of Iraq were foiled by the fire of our selfless air force personnel and antiaircraft defense units of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Communique No 1,158

LD201822 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Dec 82

[Communique No 1,158th of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. During the past 24 hours the operations of the fighters of Islam in the south of the country and Mohharam operational zone continued with an exchange of artillery and mortar fire. While strengthening and consolidating their positions, our forces opened fire over the concentrations, supply axes and fortifications of the Iraqi forces and stopped the enemy's ground operations. In (Sharhani) and (Zobeydat) regions the exchange of fire was more intense than on other fronts. In these regions a number of enemy personnel were killed or wounded. Three enemy vehicles and one 106-mm gun carrier were destroyed. Yesterday one enemy partol group was involved in a clash with our forces in the region north of (Zeyd) post. The patrol group was scattered after suffering some dead, injured or captured.

In the Abadan region the forces of Islam opened fire on enemy positions on the other side of the Arvand Rud. As a result two mortar positions, one antiaircraft gun position, three observation posts, and a number of trenches and foxholes of the enemy were destroyed.

According to reports, there were 62 martyrs and 287 injured as the result of the enemy's savage missile attack on the steadfast city of Dezful. In addition, 120 homes and 380 stores were destroyed or have sustained considerable damage as a result of this frightful crime.

Yesterday, on the country's western fronts, our forces' artillery fire destroyed trenches and one Iraqi personnel carrier. Also, as a result of our forces' reconnaissance and fighting operations, every enemy movement was checked in the Muslim Ibn 'Aqil operational zone and on the country's western fronts. By crushing the positions and defensive lines of the Iraqi forces, our forces inflicted losses and damages to Saddam's forces.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

IRAQI ATTACK ON DEZFUL CONDEMNED, TO BE AVENGED

Foreign Ministry Spokesman

LD202046 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Dec 82

[Text] Following the Iraqi mercenaries' savage missile attack on the resisting and heroic city of Dezful, a Foreign Ministry spokesman told the Central News Unit that the savage action committed by Saddam was to compensate for his forces' continuous defeats on the battlefronts, and to confront the Iraqi Muslim people's uprising.

The despised and hated regime ruling Baghdad, in connection with the explosion at the Iraqi News Agency bureau [in Paris] and the false allegation that Iran had been involved in that incident, threatened to take revenge through legitimate and lawful actions. The whole world now knows that from Saddam's point of view, the killing and wounding of innocent old, young, men, women and children are legitimate and lawful means.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman added: Why is it that the loudspeakers of international human rights organizations, which pretend to be defending peace, freedom and humanity, have remained silent over this savage crime.

While drawing the attention of international bodies, especially the Nonaligned Movement members, to Saddam's cruel actions, we hereby declare that the Iraqi regime's pretentious claims for peace and its false declarations for settling disputes through peaceful means, are also fraudulent. There is no other solution left for achieving the just and righteous rights of the Muslim nation of Iran, but to continue the struggle against that aggressor regime.

Musavi Statement

LD202238 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 20 Dec 82

[Statement released by Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi on 20 December]

[Text] In the name of God, the crusher of the oppressor. The heroic city of Dezful has once again added another page to its glorious history and its historic epic by presenting many martyrs and injured to Islam's path.

The cries of God is great chanted following the horrifying missile explosions were clear proof of the valiant resistance of those heroic and ever-present on the scene people and an indication to the blind enemy which has so far failed to understand our nation correctly. The Zionist Saddam, who has lost his balance as a result of the intensity of the crushing blows inflicted on his regime by Iraqi Muslim revolutionaries inside Iraq as well as the Islamic combatants' relentless blows inflicted from outside, is pouring his [word indistinct] weakness over the defenseless inhabitants of Dezful using the modern missiles put at his disposal by the supercriminals of the West and East, and is martyring and injuring many men, women, old and young in their homes. Such is the logic of all of history's tyrants. Did not the shah during his last days of reign also use the same logic?

Saddam should realize that; God is hunting for oppressors. Saddam should realize that the anger of the oppressed's God is now burning in the Islamic combatants' flesh and blood, souls and limbs, and that this sacred flame will burn down the rule of Saddam and the Saddamists in the region. Supporters of Saddam throughout the world should realize that they will finally have to pay for so many crimes. The reactionary and agent states of America in this region should also realize that the flame of this fire will embrace them, too.

Sisters and brothers of Dezful, O you the valiant inhabitants of Dezful who have to breath and continue with your every day work and living under the Saddamists' missiles and shells, your silence and your prayers are for God. You must rest assured when you embrace the mutilated bodies of your children and cry: Where is God's assistance, you will hear an answer from everywhere which says: God's assistance is near. This is the text of the Koran and this God's infinite tradition.

Your serving government, while bowing its head before the epic-making heroism of you valiant and faithful people, expresses its congratulations and condolences to the imam of ummah and to the martyrs' families and hereby declares that in avenging the blood of the martyrs, it will never rest and will mobilize every effort to eliminate the American enemy and realize the Islamic Republic's aspirations.

[Signed] Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Majis Speaker Remarks

LD202040 Tehran IRNA in English 1922 GMT 20 Dec 82

[Text] Tehran, Dec 20, IRNA -- Peace claims of the Iraqi regime and superpowers of West and East are baseless, said Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani here this morning.

Commenting on the Sunday [19 December] afternoon shelling of Dezful by the Iraqis using long-range missiles, the Majlis speaker said that in the course of the imposed Iraqi war, the Iranian people have become accustomed to such brutal incidents. However, the Iraqi ruler has not taken lessons of consequences of such attacks.

Rafsanjani who was speaking in the open session of the Majlis further added that anytime the Iraqi regime commits such a crime the Iranian combatants in the battlefields have taken revenge. Such attacks have had adverse [words indistinct] for the Iraqi rulers. However, they still have not learned their lesson and their peace claims are nothing but lies, he added.

The advanced Iraqi missiles caused a considerable amount of destruction in Dezful yesterday afternoon and also claimed lives of some 62 civilians, injuring nearly 300 people and as well as destroying a number of homes and stores.

In another part of his speech, Rafsanjani said that superpowers which provided Iraq with advanced armaments, wanted to prolong the war. Commenting on the effects of such attacks on the morale of the Iranian people, Rafsanjani said that contrary to expectations of the Iraqi regime, such actions have had positive effects.

The Majlis speaker called on the Iranian combatants to curtail the aggressors' crimes and rid southern and western Iran (?of) the Iraqi forces.

The Dezful deputy in the Majlis, Ahmad Zarmunq said that such brutal attacks by the Iraqi regime increased resistance and determination of the Iranian people to fight off the enemy.

The Dezful deputy continued by saying that both superpowers encouraged and motivated Saddam Husayn to wage the war on Iran and the United States Government has been supplying Iraq with arms through Britain, France and the reactionary governments of the region.

Meanwhile, the Soviet Union has not fallen short of aiding Saddam Husayn and has provided him with missiles and other types of munitions. In connection with this incident, foreign affairs [word indistinct] should summon the Soviet ambassador to the ministry and also take him to see destruction in Dezful, he added.

Concluded he urged the Supreme Defense Council and the Islamic combatants to give a proper reply to the enemy.

Some 80 Majlis deputies in a letter announced that they would do whatever possible for the implementation of the orders of Imam Khomeyni, announced in the recent message of the imam. In his message the leader of the revolution urged further observance of Islamic principles in government institutions and appointed chief justice, Musavi-Ardabili and Prime Minister Musavi-Khamene'i to supervise over the matter.

RAFSANJANI INTERVIEWED ON WAR MEDIATION EFFORTS

LD202126 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Dec 82

[Excerpts] Dear listeners: As we informed you at the beginning of the bulletin, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Majlis speaker, answered questions in an exclusive interview with our correspondent about the country's current affairs. We draw your attention to the text of this interview:

[Begin recording] [Question] Mr Hashemi, following Saddam's repeated crimes in various cities, he recently engaged in a new crime in Dezful and martyred and wounded a number of our compatriots. Please tell us decisively the government's position, how it will react to this action, and what your analysis of the situation is?

[Answer] I have said repeatedly that for a long time now fighting has no longer been possible for Saddam in the sense of an ordinary military operation. Saddam cannot launch an attack anywhere, and whenever he launches an attack he cannot move. Saddam's forces are either stationary, or, if they do move, it is backward. He used to make aerial attacks, but by strengthening our defenses in sensitive places, we have blocked his way.

However, he must somehow demonstrate that he is still fighting and has no qualms about committing big crimes such as the missile attack. We have repeatedly said that if we wanted to fight against civilians by means of long-range shelling, Iran could do this wherever it wished to over 800 km; it can shell Iraqi villages and towns. At present, more than seven or eight large Iraqi towns are within our range; we can hit them, but we do not shell people. We cannot do the things Saddam does which we regard as sinful. However, at the moment, they cannot fight any other way. Concerning our reaction, I emphasize that our fighters will never do what Saddam does. The people of Iraq should in no way be harmed.

The people should prepare to do something to destroy, God willing, the source of this conflagration. At present, we are not in a position to engage in limited operations; we should do something basic to release the world from the evil of Saddam, God willing, in the future -- I cannot reveal the time, and the time may not yet be known. In any case, the actions being taken by the Iraqi forces make it easier for us to show who we are up against.

[Question] Habir Chatti, Islamic Conference secretary, has said in Malaysia that they will continue their efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war. The people have seen these efforts, and these have been numerous comings and goings. We have repeatedly seen that these peace delegations have never condemned the activities of Saddam, an example of which we have seen recently in Dezful. Please tell us what the Iranian Government's future position will be toward peace delegations?

[Answer] We have no objections if anybody wishes to volunteer; we will even be happy. We have said before that we hope more of them will come. However, they should not think they just have to come and the issue is resolved. We are now tired of these delegations coming here without anything new to say, just raising issues in interviews and coming here.

We have emphasized to them that they should not come unless they have something new to say; their new proposals should correspond to our demands. We say the aggressor, namely Saddam, should be punished. They should pay war reparations to us as punishment. They had usurped our territory, but we have reoccupied most of it; only a small part of it is left, which we will of course regain. The main thing is that the aggressor should be punished by paying war reparations. We have not changed our position. However, we have recently announced that they should not come to Iran unless they have new proposals to make. We will officially announce to whoever wishes to come that they should not come without something new. Whether it is Mr Habib Chatti or others, if they have some new proposals, they can come.

[Question] We have repeatedly witnessed that even some governments that have taken the worst attitude toward the Islamic Republic have condemned these crimes, but the peace delegations have never condemned Saddam's crimes. Please tell us your views about this.

[Answer] Their explanation is that they are mediators, and if they condemn such actions, their role as mediators will be weakened. However, we do not accept this. We say that mediators should not behave in the same way toward the oppressor and the oppressed. In fact, one of the solutions is to identify and condemn the aggressor. If they had acted in this way, the crime would have been made clearer, and from a psychological point of view it would have been easier for us to (?terminate) this war. Unfortunately, they do not do so; and we regret this.

[Reporter] Thank you. [end recording]

RAFSANJANI CRITICIZES SAUDI 'BULLYING TACTICS'

LD202116 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Dec 82

[Excerpt] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Majlis speaker, spoke to our correspondent in an exclusive interview and answered questions relating to the country's current affairs.

Commenting on the imam's important message, Mr Rafsanjani stressed: It must be noted that the imam's recent message was not like other advice given before by the imam, but constitutes the beginning of a new phase in our society and a reason for the importance attached to the new phase by the imam. We must all carry out the imam's recent decree to the best of our abilities.

Commenting on the issues currently being discussed by the OPEC ministerial meeting, Mr Hashemi said: Our policy is that the OPEC quota system must be just and based on population, reserves, and other factors, rather than the present situation where, although our country's population is several times that of Arabia, the latter's quota is several times greater than ours. Mr Hashemi added: Arabia is resorting to bullying tactics in OPEC, and one day we will stop this bullying policy.

IRNA: OPEC DISPUTES BENEFIT WESTERN COUNTRIES

GF201720 Tehran IRNA in English 1651 GMT 20 Dec 82

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 20 IRNA -- Oil ministers from 13 OPEC met in Vienna to fix base of crude oil price and producting quota for each member. The three-day discussion were held when Iran and Libya, two major and effective members of OPEC, urged the organisation to increase the level of their present producing quota.

OPEC members, in their informal consultations prior to the official meetings expressed hopes for favourable results of the conference.

Economic crisis of the Third World countries during the past two years resulted mainly in the production on the limited scale. OPEC members tried to reach a uniform policy for sale of oil to their customers, mostly industrialised Western countries.

Certain countries including Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Iraq whose economic policy based on only consumption, are now relying on industralised Western countries on a maximum level.

The OPEC members met in Vienna while the oil is more than demand in international oil market and this factor further had widen disputes among the OPEC members. However, it is expected that the members apparently agreed on the quota of oil production a base of fixing the price of 34 dollars per barrel.

The secretary general of the conference would be elected from Iran therefore the Saudi Arabia had adopted a careful policy and apparently agreed with the decisions made at the conference. [paragraph as received]

A glance at the 22 year old history of the organisation indicated that for the first time this year the oil production of noncommunist countries who are not OPEC members was more than total of production of OPEC members and in these circumstances countries like Saudi Arabia fanned internal crisis ignoring the fixed price and also increased their producing. They increased their production and sold at a price of half of the official price.

Countries like Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and UAE who in the past years ignored a reasonable economic policy based on less dependency on oil will face very many difficulties as their revenue was more than their expenses.

Western sources said that the foreign exchange reserves of these countries were about 18 billion dollar in 1982 while the same figures stood at 85 billion dollars in 1981.

Disputes among the OPEC members endangered stability of the organisation and the oil situation in the world which is in the interest of industrialised Western countries.

IRGC, NAVY TO SET UP BASE TO MAXIMIZE FACILITIES

LD200020 Tehran IRNA in English 0950 GMT 19 Dec 82

[Text] Tehran, December 19 (IRNA) -- Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps [IRGC] commander said on Saturday that we are ready to set up a joint IRGC-navy base for the maximum utilisation of facilities.

Beza'i was talking on a high-level meeting of the officials of the navy and the IRGC.

He said the IRGC was ready to carry out such an important task as it has with the ground forces which proved to be successful.

The meeting was attended by navy commander Captain Bamram Afzali, navy's ideological-political office head Hojat ol-Eslam Elahi, other senior navy officials and high officials from the IRGC including Shamkhani. Captain Afzali informed the IRGC officials of the situation in the Persian Gulf and facilities being enjoyed by the navy. He also explained the long-term and short-term plans of the navy to face any possible threat of aggression in the region.

Hojat ol-Eslam Elahi said the closer ties between the navy and the IRGC has always been one major desire for them and pointed out that with the initiative of Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri the time has come to fulfill the desire.

HEADQUARTERS SET UP TO IMPLEMENT KHOMEYNI DECREE

LD191912 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Dec 82

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that, in connection with the implementation of the imam of the ummah's important message regarding ensuring the people's social and judicial security, the (?second) joint statement issued by the president of the Supreme Court and the prime minister has been released as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. In order to implement the decree of the imam of the ummah, a decree that should be obeyed as an obligation, a headquarters comprised of Emami-Kashani, president of the Administrative Justice Court; Mohaqqeq-Damad, director of the state inspectorate organization; Nateq-Nuri, interior minister; and Aqazadeh, minister in charge of executive affairs, was formed and assigned to prepare the ground for the formation of commissions in provincial capitals and other towns to implement the imam's message in all its aspects, giving due consideration to the points raised in the text of the message of the imam of the ummah.

For the same purpose, at this morning's meeting, different phases of investigation and execution of the work assigned to the central headquarters and other commissions in provincial centers and other towns were discussed. [Signed] 'Abdolkarim Musavi-Ardabili, Mir-Hoseyn Musavi

MUSAVI ADDRESSES GOVERNORS-GENERAL SEMINAR

LD191300 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Dec 82

[Excerpt] According to a Central News Unit report, the governors-general seminar continued today in the presence of Mr Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, the prime minister, Cabinet members, and a group of Education Ministry managing directors.

In today's session, the prime minister analyzes the country's political and economic issues. He said: Through the power of the faith of our combatants, we are now victorious, while in the political arena our relations with the outside world have expanded.

In connection with Iran's foreign policy, he said: With regard to America's rights in the Persian Gulf, the Indian Ocean, and (?reactionary) countries, we speak up as explicitly as with regard to the Soviet Union's presence in Afghanistan, that is, both diplomatically and openly. If any country with relations with us decides to blackmail us, we will immediately sever, downgrade or reduce our relations with that country.

Regarding the problems of governors-general, he said: It is the government's policy to support governors-general as the government's representatives in the provinces. We will continue this policy.

More on Address

LD201108 Tehran IRNA in English 0940 GMT 20 Dec 82

["More on P.M.'s Address to Governor Generals" -- IRNA headline]

[Text] [no dateline as received] Prime Minister Musavi also addressed the seminar participants on foreign politics' effect on the country today, which he said had prevented the Islamic Republic from realising its objectives during the initial stages of the revolution. He also said that the aims of the enemies' foreign policy (?were clear), i.e. the suppression of the revolution, overthrow of the government and the disbursement [as received] on the country.

The prime minister said that those countries which seek to establish relations with us now did not acknowledge us at those crucial times.

Musavi continued that once our defiant combatants began to achieve successive victories then many countries sought establishment of mutual ties with us, but our foreign policy was aimed at maintaining and establishing relations with Third World countries.

He further said that Iran seeks equilibrium in its relations with Eastern and Western countries and only if countries treat us as an independent power will we have ties with them. He also said that if they take advantage of our relations then we will not hesitate to sever ties with them.

France, he said, has definitely sided with Iraq in its imposed war, but has now realised its folly and now wishes to resume political and economic ties with such hegemonistic countries the prime minister said. Pointing out the ties with England Musavi said that this issue was being discussed in the Cabinet and until we are satisfied with our political strength so that imperialist countries will not attempt to exploit us we shall not have talks with Britain or any other similar countries.

Prime Minister Musavi, speaking on domestic issues said that in deprived provinces an enormous amount of works is currently underway to improve the social welfare of the people. He further said in connection with this, that the anti revolutionaries and armed elements have been crushed.

The prime minister said that in the economic field we have progressed in spite of the staggering problems. In short our gross per capita income in the year 1360 (beginning March 21 1981-March 20 1982), for the first time showed a positive trend of 4/10 [figure as received] percent which was a turning point in our economic history. He said previously in years past we had an average of 10 percent decline in the per capita earnings.

Musavi continued that in the year 1361 (beginning March 21 1982-March 20 1983) our forecasts showed an increase of 3 and 1/2 to 4 percent per capita income increase. He said that as a result of well-managed foreign exchange reserves, our reserves now stood at a good level, despite the problems.

Our industrial imports have shown an increase of 80 percent compared with last year's which shows we have the necessary foreign reserves, but still not the preliminary facilities for importing the goods.

Musavi further said that our industries' output has increased and is continuing to move forward, but still have not reached their optimum production capacity. In spite of the increased pressures which have been exerted on the government which it vigorously resists, our government's policy is to create more facilities for other towns and cities instead of focusing on Tehran.

Concluding Musavi said that the major problem affecting provinces was not only finances, but also manpower and a lack of basic needs. He said an obvious example of this was that in some provinces one cannot see a kilometer of asphalted road. Musavi expressed the hope that with the continued efforts of all concerned working for the betterment of the deprived provinces will soon attain their requirements.

IRAQI COUNCIL DISCUSSES MOBILIZATION PLAN

GF210730 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 21 Dec 82

[Text] A meeting of the Supreme Revolutionary Islamic Council of Iraq yesterday discussed matters regarding the general mobilization of Iraqis living in Iran to fight against the Baghdad regime, the groundwork for this program, and also attacks by mojahedin in Iraq.

Hojjat ol-Eslam al-Hakim, spokesman for the Supreme Revolutionary Islamic Council of Iraq, told an IRNA correspondent at the end of the meeting that the Iraqi brothers living in Iran insist on playing an effective role in the war against Saddam. The council discussed the possibilities of general mobilization of the Iraqi volunteers and the means to implement this project. The members at the meeting expressed their appreciation regarding the recent heroic actions of the Iraqi mojahedin movement inside Iraq and the news of the bombing incident at the Ba'th headquarters in Baghdad.

The spokesman added that several other matters connected with Iraq were also discussed at the meeting including the recent Iraqi rocket attack on populated areas of Dezful. He added it is not the first time the Saddam mercenaries, who can do little when facing the Islamic Army at the war front, have hit the populated centers of Iran including Dezful. They take their revenge for their failures against the Islamic forces on noncombatant civilians.

No such actions can prevent the rout of Saddam and his henchmen. Although the Baghdad regime has been receiving more sophisticated weapons from the world imperialists, and according to our sources, has also received advanced French missiles from the French Government, the Baghdad regime still lacks the trust of the people and confidence in itself. These two factors are enough to destroy the well-equipped arsenal of the Ba'thists.

PDRY INDUSTRY MINISTER MEETS WITH VELAYATI

LD202050 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Dec 82

[Text] PDRY Industry Minister 'Abd al-Qadir Ba Jammal met and conferred this afternoon with Foreign Minister Velayati. During this meeting, the PDRY industry minister conveyed his government's desire for the expansion and promotion of bilateral ties. He also conveyed his government's satisfaction over the growing bilateral relations.

In reply, Mr Velayati said: Relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and South Yemen can be an effective means for countering the world oppressor, its agents, and mercenaries' conspiracies in the region. Since South Yemen is a member of the Steadfastness Front, we attach special importance to our relations with that country. We believe the front members and the Islamic Republic of Iran must join in an effort to find ways of countering imperialism and Zionism and the region's reactionaries, and implement those solutions. Such coordination and exchanges of views between us and members of the front must take place before the forthcoming nonaligned summit meeting in New Delhi.

Meets With Khamene'i

LD201830 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Dec 82

[Text] The South Yemen industry minister was received in audience this morning by Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the president, and he presented a written message from Mr 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, the South Yemen president. The meeting was also attended by Industry Minister Hashemi and also the South Yemen ambassador to Tehran.

The South Yemen industry minister remarked on the situation in the region and the Arab Middle East, and also referred to imperialist America's increased influence in the region through the support provided by the region's associated and reactionary governments. He said: The states of South Yemen and the Islamic Republic of Iran, through support given by their people, can stand up to imperialist America's plots and conspiracies.

In reply, President Khamene'i stressed the need to stop America's increased influence in the region. He said: All Arab and non-Arab countries who have an anti-imperialist and an antioppressor policy must unite and fight against the world oppressor's long-term policy.

Referring to the issue of only the people of the region speaking for the region's affairs, Mr Khamene'i said: If the people of the region sit together and exchange views regarding their affairs, they will triumph.

GDR CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES MINISTER ARRIVES 17 DEC

GF171648 Tehran IRNA in English 1600 GMT 17 Dec 82

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 17 IRNA -- The chemical industry minister of the German Democratic Republic, Guenther Wyschofsky arrived here today heading a ranking economic and industrial delegation at the invitation of Iranian minister of industries, Mustafa Hashemi. The delegation was welcomed at the airport by Hashemi and several industrial authorities of the country.

The Iranian minister told IRNA that during his trip to the GDR two months ago he had visited 50 factories there and following negotiations with Mr Wyschofsky it was decided that discussions on mutual cooperation in chemical and heavy industries as well as cement and textile would be followed up. He also expressed hope that the cooperation would be fruitful for the two countries.

Mr Wyschofsky also said that their negotiation would be continued mainly in the fields of industrial equipment, machinery, textile, chemical installations and electronic industries.

He continued that in his opinion the negotiations will culminate to expansion of bilateral commercial and economic relations.

In conclusion he said that the expansion of relations between the GDR and the Islamic Republic would take into consideration the interests of both countries.

Meetings Begin

LD181232 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Dec 82

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that a GDR economic-industrial delegation, led by that country's minister of chemical industry, which is visiting Iran, met Mr Hashemi, our country's minister of industries, this morning.

During the meeting, our country's minister of industries expressed the Islamic Republic of Iran's special viewpoint on our country's economic policy and expounded the manner in which bilateral economic exchanges should take place. Then, the GDR minister of chemical industries said: Our people and government, from the very first days of Iran's Islamic revolution, have praised your struggles, and at the present time our efforts in Berlin seek to improve our economic relations. It is amply clear from the composition of our delegation that we will use these meetings to study our economic relations.

He said: The two countries' economies will be discussed without any interference in the internal affairs of the other side. We are unwilling to pursue a one-sided economic policy toward you, such as the purchase of oil. Instead, we are ready to have bilateral exchanges of industrial and commercial goods. We are not only ready to purchase your oil, but we are also ready to purchase products such as petrochemicals and other petroleum products and to cooperate with you in expanding their production. We are also ready to cooperate with you in mining your rich coal mines by supplying equipment and other means of extraction. The GDR minister of chemical industry also expressed his country's interest in other fields of economic cooperation, including agricultural machinery; shipbuilding; cargo vessels; trawlers; pharmaceutical and medical equipment; and essential goods.

TWO VILLAGES CLEARED OF 'COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES'

LD181756 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Dec 82

[Text] According to reports from Hamzeh Seyyed ash-Shohada Base, peace be upon him, following the operations in Kordestan and Western Azarbaijan to clean the region . the filthy presence of counterrevolutionaries and illegally armed assailants, in a coordinated operation whch began on the anniversary of Imam Reza's martyrdom the selfless forces of Islam succeeded in cleaning up the two important villages (Manzumeh) and (Khalisan) near the towns of Sar Dasht and Suman without suffering any casualties.

AFGHAN REVOLUTIONARIES KILL SOVIET FORCES

LD191050 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 19 Dec 82

[Text] In the course of a severe 5-hour clash between Afghan Muslim revolutionaries and the Soviet invaders and government forces in the Char Gavak area of the Jowayn Governorate in Farah Province, 20 invaders were killed and a large group of them were wounded. In the course of this clash, four members of Afghanistan's ruling party were taken prisoner by the Muslim revolutionaries.

According to reports, a group of young men from the area who had been arrested by government forces in order to forcibly draft them into military service, were released by the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries.

BRIEFS

NEW ZEALAND MEAT DEAL -- Tehran, Dec. 15, IRNA -- The Islamic Republic of Iran signed a 100,000 ton deal for the purchase of meat from New Zealand at lower prices for 1983. The Iranian meat organisation director told IRNA that the amount of the deal was 385 dollars lower per ton compared with the previous year and that a total of about 38 million dollars was saved. The deal was announced following a visit by an economic delegation from New Zealand headed by Foreign Affairs and Overseas Trade Minister Warren Cooper late last month. [Text] [Tehran IRNA in English 1640 GMT 15 Dec 82 GF]